

Chauncey Coop

The winner of the April 2012 West Lafayette Beautification Award is Chauncey Cooperative House. This men's Coop, located at 215 S. Chauncey, was founded in 1937 with the purpose of helping men attend college; currently 19 members reside at Chauncey Coop. Members also enjoy relaxing and playing basketball in the adjacent Tommy Johnston Park.

Several years ago there were discussions of relocating Tommy Johnson Park to some other site. Several Coop members realized they would be losing a valuable neighbor if the park relocated. Coop members, including Brian Smith, created and signed a petition, appeared at WL Park Board to speak against the relocation of the park and worked with other government officials in efforts to retain the park at the intersection of Wood and Chauncey Streets. The members of the Coop also agreed to help maintain Tommy Johnston. On Boiler Blast Day April 2, 2011 the men of Chauncey Coop labored to clean up Tommy Johnston and collected many bags of debris (see photo). The Park Board made the decision to retain and renovate Tommy Johnston. The WL Redevelopment Commission allotted ample dollars to finance the necessary renovations. A new basketball court was installed; improved lighting and other amenities were added.

You can see the men of Chauncey Coop cleaning up the park, playing on the new courts and relaxing at the site on almost any day. These men were also present to cut the ribbon and play ball when the WL Park Board reopened the park on October 20, 2011 (see photo). Congratulations to the men of Chauncey Coop and thank you to the WL Park Board and WL Redevelopment for funding the renovations of Tommy Johnston Park.



